Candidate Selection Committee c/o Legislative Services Division P.O. Box 201706 Helena, MT 59620-1706

Candidate Selection Committee,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of my intent to apply for the Commissioner of Political Practices position which opens January 1, 2011.

I have run five political campaigns in the last ten years. That experience coupled with my four terms in the Montana House of Representatives and my legislative leadership roles qualify me to fill this position. Specifically, serving as Chairman of the House State Administration Committee, (which has oversight and bill review of election and campaign finance laws which the Commissioner of Political Practices is responsible for enforcing), along with my passion to serve the citizens of Montana, I would be honored to be considered for this position.

My resume and cover letter will follow next week. If you have questions, please feel free to call me at (406) 670-3019.

Sincerely,

Rep. Dennis Himmelberger

Montana House District #47

Candidate Selection Committee c/o Legislative Services Division P.O. Box 201706 Helena, MT 59620-1706

Candidate Selection Committee,

I am pleased to submit my resume for the Commissioner of Political Practices job opening, available January 1, 2011. I feel that I am qualified to fill this position, primarily because of my legislative experience over the past ten years.

Having served four terms in the Montana House of Representatives and as the Chairman of the House State Administration Committee in 2007 and 2009, I understand and realize both the importance and significance of implementing existing political practice laws while also working through the legislative process to improve those laws. I also understand the need for non-partisanship to do this job and I feel I have worked very hard in the House of Representatives toward this end. I am fair and unbiased and would enjoy this challenging opportunity. Running five political campaigns has also given me the experience and expertise to address issues and make good, sound impartial decisions.

In summary, I enjoy the political process, I have a passion to continue to serve the people of Montana and I have the experience that makes me a competent and qualified candidate for this position. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Rep. Dennis Himmelberger

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Montana House District #47

## **DENNIS L. HIMMELBERGER**

P.O. Box 22272 Home: (406) 259-8225 Billings, MT 59104 Cell: (406) 670-3019

<u>CAREER OBJECTIVE</u>: To work in a professional organization and serve in a role where I can contribute and make a positive difference to the citizens and the state of Montana. To be able to utilize my work ethics and my business, organization and communication skills. To have a positive impact building and cultivating relationships.

<u>PERSONAL PROFILE</u>: Organized and motivated self-starter who thrives on business development, negotiating and problem solving. I work well as an individual, but I also enjoy being part of a larger, cohesive team. Results oriented with an outgoing, friendly personality - I enjoy interacting and working with others to accomplish overall goals and objectives.

SKILLS SUMMARY: Leadership/personal skills, public speaking, communication and organizational skills. Proficient with computers and business/project management experience, detail oriented. Team player, good at developing and nurturing relationships, as well as negotiating and problem solving. I have demonstrated the ability to remove partisanship from the partisan environment and like negotiating those challenges. I enjoy working with a greater vision and overall direction to serve the people of Montana. I understand implementing existing laws while also working through the legislative process to improve the laws.

#### **PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE:**

05/73 – 03/80	Employed/Managed a number of businesses, PA
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03/80 - 02/83 Employed by Husted Ranches, Jackson, MT

03/83 - Current Small Business Owner/Operator, Sole Proprietor of PROCLEAN

02/94 - Current Small Business Owner/Operator, Sole Proprietor of HIMMELBERGER BREWING COMPANY

#### **LEGISLATIVE EXPERIENCE:**

01/01 - 04/09	Served four terms in the Montana State House of Representatives, representing HD 18 & 47,
	Billings, MT.

- 01/01 04/01 Served on Business & Labor, Health & Human Services and Local Government Committees.

  Interim Committee assignment Micro Business Advisory Council.
- 01/05 04/05 Elected House Republican Whip. Served on the Taxation Committee and appointed Vice Chairman of the Federal Relations, Energy and Telecommunications Committee and the House Rules Committee. Interim appointed to the Legislative Council and the Republican Legislative Campaign Committee.
- 01/07 04/07 Appointed House State Administration Committee Chairman and served on Federal Relations, Energy and Telecommunications Committee and the House Rules Committee. Elected House Majority Leader 04/07. Interim Appointed to the Republican Legislative Campaign Committee and the Legislative Council, elected Vice Chairman of the Legislative Council.
- 01/09 04/09 Appointed House State Administration Committee Chairman. Interim appointed to the Legislative Council, elected Chairman.

#### **EDUCATION:**

1969-1973 Northern Lebanon High School, Fredericksburg, PA

Graduated 1973 - High School Diploma
Earned Varsity Letters in Wrestling
Junior & Senior Class President
Member of FFA, Student Council

## **OTHER INTERESTS & PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:**

American Legislative Exchange Council – Member since 2001, Montana State Chairman since 2007
Attended the Western Legislative Academy, 2005
State Legislative Leaders Foundation, 2006
Montana State Brewers Association, Organizer/Member
Member/Vice Chairman of the Billings Heights Community Development Task Force, 10 years - current

### **REFERENCES:**

Available upon request

# **QUESTIONNAIRE**

1. Are you familiar with restrictions Montana law imposes upon the activities of an individual holding the office of COPP?

DH: Yes, I have reviewed the statutes.

2. What is your legal writing experience?

DH: Resulting from my eight years of legislative experience, I am very familiar with Montana Code Annotated as well as bill drafting, reading and reviewing. I estimate that over this time period I have been exposed to several thousand bills which as you know, are all required to pass legal review.

3. Have you ever been party to a complaint filed with the COPP? DH: Not that I recall.

4. What is your current or past involvement with either the campaign of a candidate or a ballot initiative?

DH: I have run/managed my own five legislative campaigns.

5. Have you been affiliated with a political party or political action committee? DH: Yes, the Republican Party.

If yes, how will this affiliation affect your ability to render impartial decisions on complaints filed against candidates, PACs, and ballot initiatives?

DH: In my four terms in the Montana House of Representatives, I have been able to demonstrate a lack of party partiality specifically as a committee chairman both standing and interim. This experience has taught me how to conduct myself impartially in a very partisan environment. I feel I am very fair, impartial and unbiased and all decisions would reflect this position.

- 6. What is your opinion of the current candidate contribution limits?

  DH: I believe limits are necessary, but I feel adjustments could be made.
- 7. Have you or a family member been involved in the legislative process as a lobbyist?

DH: No.

8. In your opinion, do further regulations or restrictions need to be placed on lobbyists' activities?

DH: Yes, but first and foremost, I believe that the definition of a lobbyist needs to be 'revisited'.